

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are pending in this application, of which claim 4 has been amended.
Claim 3 is canceled. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings and specification for various informalities which have been corrected by amending page, 6, lines 14-16; page 7, lines 16-17; and page 8, lines 1, 3 and 14 in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as “incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements.” The Examiner has specifically stated:

The omitted elements are: Claim 1, line 4 “...a false card” or stolen;”. Suggestion for the last claim limitations: means for withdrawing cash using the prepaid card; means for processing the withdrawal of cash using the prepaid card making the processed prepaid card invalid.

Applicant does not understand why the term “false card” is not covered by the recited term “forged.” In addition, the Examiner’s recommended limitations to be added to claim 1 regarding the withdrawal of cash appear to relate to claim 4, instead of claim 1, because the withdrawing of cash is an embodiment which is separated from “transmitting settlement data,” as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 4 (instead of claim 1) has been amended to recite this distinction.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,042,635 to Shimada et al. (hereafter, “**Shimada et al.**”) in view of **Risafi et al.** and

Hayashida (both previously applied).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Shimada et al. discloses a card terminal for settling transactions with a prepaid card or a credit card using comprising a card reader for reading data out of the card, a data writer for writing data on the card, a display for indicating the customer's data, transaction data and stamp points, and a keyboard for inputting sales data, customer's data, or stamp point data. The card terminal has at least one of the functions from among inquiring about the transaction, cancellation of the transaction, purchase of commodities, calculation of the service points in accordance with an amount of transaction, display of the personal anniversary of the customer, and writing the details of a transaction, the service points, or personal data, even if the card is a prepaid card or a credit card. The service point can be increased in accordance with the convenience of the stores, such as a bonus sales and customer's anniversary, buy setting a multiple at the card terminal.

The Examiner has cited column 9, lines 15-24 for teaching means for using a debit card having an identification number and a money withdrawal function to issue a prepaid card after the identification number of the debit card is checked to see if the debit card is forged or stolen.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. This passage discloses checking the validity date of a prepaid card, but fails to disclose:

1. Using the debit card to issue a prepaid card, as claimed in the instant application;
or

2. Checking to see if the debit card is forged or stolen, as claimed in the instant application.

As noted in column 9, lines 15-24, the only validity check of the debit card is for the validity date, which does not equate to a check for being stolen or forged, as required in claim 1.

Risafi et al. discloses a system for using a prepaid card which permits a card user to purchase a card, issued by an issuer, such as a bank, through an agent at a retail establishment via a terminal, select a PIN, have the card activated at the point of purchase, use the card to purchase goods and services, and reload the card for future use. The system uses a communications network for issuance, activation, and accounting, and activation is accomplished on a real-time basis, either one account at a time or in a batch mode. The card can be used to purchase a wide range of goods and services including telephone services. The card can also be used to make cash withdrawals at an ATM or a point-of-sale terminal.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. **Risafi et al.** discloses only the purchase of a prepaid card, but does not disclose using a debit card to issue a prepaid card.

Hayashida discloses an electronic cashless system uses a cashless medium for memorizing amount information and for performing an operation of amount information. The electronic cashless system comprises an automatic transaction terminal device having a reading/writing unit for writing amount information to the cashless medium, and a center device having a unit for identifying the account balance of multiple accounts and for storing amount information and a non-settled fund file unit for storing amount information written by the cashless medium and a seller ledger file means for identifying the account balance of the multiple

seller's accounts and for storing amount information.

Hayashida discloses the use of only one type of cashless medium 1 having a memory part 11 and an operation part 12, as shown in Fig. 1. Thus, **Hayashida** fails to disclose a card settlement system using a debit card to issue a prepaid card, as claimed in the present invention.

Thus, none of the cited references teaches, mentions or suggests using a debit card to issue a prepaid card in the card settlement system claimed in the instant application and the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1, 2 and 4, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/747,020
Response to Office Action dated January 18, 2007

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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